

Use only one heaping teaspoonful of Schilling's Best Baking Powder to a quart of flour.

You must use two teaspoonfuls of other baking powder.

ALASKAN SITUATION

A CONSERVATIVE OPINION OF PRESENT CONDITIONS.

The Early Rush of Eager Goldseekers Having Congested the Passes, Other Routes Will Have to Be Opened.

Special Correspondence.]

Although the rush to Alaska may be said to have only just begun, a condition of affairs has already developed in Dyea and Skagway which promises to disappoint the expectations of thousands of eager gold seekers. The trails across the Chilkoot and White passes are practically impassable because of the frequent and severe storms, and will not be in good condition until about the first of April. The result is that thousands of men and thousands of tons of supplies and mining outfits are crowded together on this side of the summit and have already reached such number and quantity as to create a blockade.

It has been generally understood that it was foolish to go up to that country earlier than March with the expectation of crossing the passes, and that one who did so would simply subject himself to a long wait, to needless hardships and possible sickness while consuming supplies which should be kept for service in the gold fields. Notwithstanding this fact, travel begun in January and has continued through February, an average of a steamer a day having landed men and freight at Dyea and Skagway. Those who took this early start did so because they feared a blockade and were anxious to get over the summit, expecting to wait at the lakes for the opening of the river to navigation. The blockade they hoped to escape has come upon them and they are not over the summit. Many have spent a month of hardship and toil and are worse off because of it than are the newest arrivals.

There are not less than 20,000 people in Dyea and Skagway encamped along the trails as far as the weather conditions have permitted them to advance, only a few miles at the most. The quantity of supplies, outfits, boats, machinery, etc., averages not less than a ton to each man. This average will be kept up during the month of March, and by the first of April, when the work of getting over the summit will begin in earnest, a moderate estimate of the number of men and quantity of freight that will be assembled there is 50,000 persons and 50,000 tons of freight.

The only thing that has been accomplished on the Skagway trail to make it more passable than it was last summer has been the building of some small bridges, and some improvements on the road leading out from Skagway. There has been a tramway project there but no progress has been made with it. The indications are that the Skagway trail will not be materially better than it was last summer, when it was blockaded and rendered practically impassable by 8,000 or 4,000 people and their outfits. Of course, as long as the snow lasts in the spring the trail will be a better one than when the traveler has

Stop! Women,

And consider that in addressing Mrs. Pinkham you are confiding your private ills to a woman—a woman whose experience in treating woman's diseases is greater than that of any living physician, male or female.

You can talk freely to a woman when it is revolting to relate your private troubles to a man; besides, a man does not understand, simply because he is a man.

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Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to promptly communicate with Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. All letters are received, opened, read, and answered by women only. A woman can freely talk of her private illness to a woman. Thus has been established the eternal confidences between Mrs. Pinkham and the women of America which has never been broken. Out of the vast volume of experience which she has to draw from, it is more than possible that she has gained the very knowledge that will help your case. She asks nothing in return except your good will, and her advice has relieved thousands. Surely any woman, rich or poor, is very foolish if she does not take advantage of this generous offer of assistance.

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encounter mud and boulders, which were such an obstacle a year ago.

As for the trail from Dyea, which is the one experience has proved to be the best, two tramways are under construction for the transportation of goods. One of these has a tram railroad from Dyea to the base of the summit ridge, and an electric bucket system across the summit to Lake Lindemann. The other has two tramway cables leading from the first and second divides and ending at Lake Lindemann. Connection between the last of these and Dyea will be made with wagons and pack animals. Neither of these enterprises is ready for operation, and the possibilities are that they will not be before the first of April. When in complete operation, their combined capacity will not exceed 400 tons per day. Assuming that by the use of pack animals 100 tons per day could be taken over the White pass from Skagway, this leaves the total capacity of all facilities provided for both passes at 500 tons per day. This means 100 days for transporting 50,000 tons that will be accumulated there by the first of April. In other words, accumulations could not be cleared away before the middle of June. The probabilities are, however, that during the months of April and May an equal quantity of new freight would demand attention.

In this calculation no allowance is made for the freight which could be taken on sleds by individuals and by the aid of dogs. This would be inconsiderable. In fact, with such a mass of humanity and of goods, it would be almost impossible for freight to be moved at all on those narrow portions of the trail where the right of way would be the subject of dispute and contention. If people interfered with each other last fall so as to create a blockade on both trails with less than 6,000 people attempting to go over, it does not require a great flight of imagination to see the utter blockade that would be created by 50,000 people.

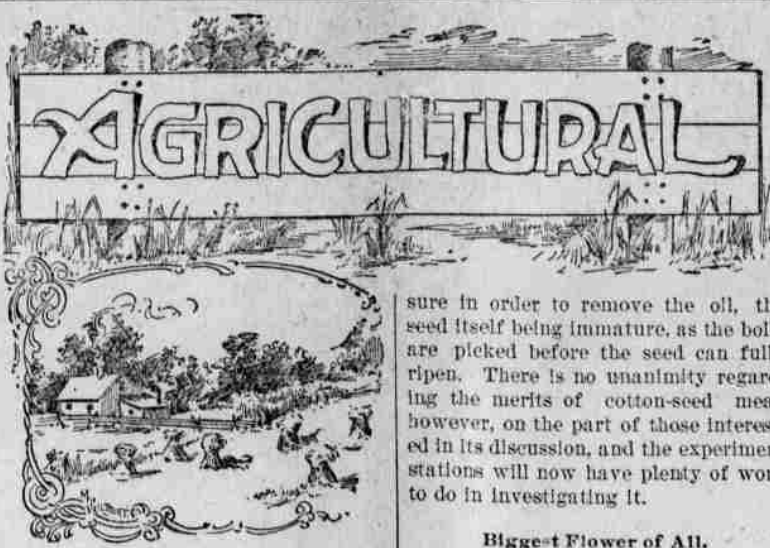
One who intends to go to Alaska may well stop and consider what his chances are likely to be in such a mob, and whether he would not do better to seek some other route or some other objective point than the Klondike region. Of course, transportation facilities from the coast ports to Alaska have been provided for Dyea and Skagway, but doubtless as soon as this blockade so develops that intending gold hunters demand to be taken somewhere else, steamers will leave the Dyea and Skagway routes and seek other ports, such as Copper River and Cook's inlet. At these places there is room for all. No narrow canyon trail confines the gold hunter to a particular route, but there is opportunity to spread out over a wide expanse of country, now practically unknown, but reported to be rich in gold. There are said to be low passes through the mountains from both Copper River and Cook's inlet, leading over to the Tanana and to the head waters of Birch creek, by which the now promising gold fields on the American side of the line may be more easily reached than by the route across the Chilkoot pass and down the lakes and rivers. The government is now fitting out an expedition for Copper River. Undoubtedly these routes will be opened up the present season by prospectors even should not the great stream of travel be turned in that direction.

There are already indications of a desire on the part of gold hunters to abandon their idea of going to Dyea and Skagway, and to strike out for the Copper River and Cook's inlet. Beyond doubt this tendency will rapidly increase as the crowded condition of the passes becomes better known. At present the only facilities for reaching Copper River and Cook's inlet is the United States mail boat operated by the Pacific Coast Steam Whaling Company from San Francisco, the two small steamers now on the route from Portland to Copper River, and the small steamer running from Port Townsend to Copper River. These steamers are already inadequate to meet the demand and doubtless more will soon be put on the route.

Attention has also been turned in the direction of the route by Fort Wrangel and Stickeen river, Telegraph creek and Teslin lake, but as yet, facilities have not been provided. Several small river steamers are being constructed for the Stickeen river, to ply between Fort Wrangel and Telegraph creek, which is the point of disembarkation for the overland journey of the 150 miles to Lake Teslin. On this stretch of 150 miles it is proposed by a Canadian company to construct a railroad the present year under a special grant from the Dominion parliament of 20,000 acres of land per mile, and the time set for its completion is the first of September. It is thus seen that, for this season at least, only such travel can go over the Stickeen route as can be handled by pack animals, and this, of course, cannot be very extensive. Possibly several thousand people will attempt this route, with the probability that a large portion of them will make a failure of their

journey.

After extolling the merits of cotton-seed meal for years, leading agriculturists are taking the stand that it is an unsafe food, as it varies greatly according to the conditions of the growth of the plant and the treatment of the seed after it is removed from the bolls. Cotton-seed meal is the product of ground seed that has been subjected to pres-

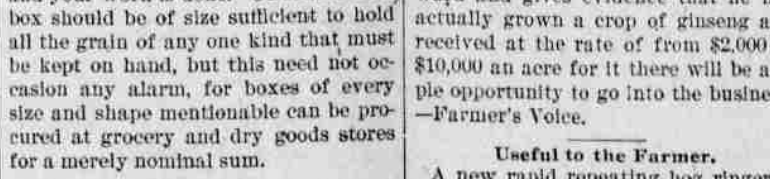


AGRICULTURAL

sure in order to remove the oil, the seed itself being immature, as the bolls are picked before the seed can fully ripen. There is no unanimity regarding the merits of cotton-seed meal, however, on the part of those interested in its discussion, and the experiment stations will now have plenty of work to do in investigating it.

Biggest Flower of All.
The largest flower in the world grows on the Island of Mindanao, one of the Philippine group. It was first discovered there some years ago by a German explorer. It is a five-petaled blossom, nearly a yard wide. At a distance the buds look like giant cabbage heads. A single flower has been known to weigh twenty-two pounds. The natives call it the bolo. Specimens sent to Europe were recognized to be of the species *Rafflesia*, a plant discovered in Sumatra, and named after the English governor of that island, Sir Stamford Raffles. The bolo is only to be found in the neighborhood of the crater of Apo, one of the highest volcanoes in the Philippines, or about 2,500 feet above the level of the sea.—Philadelphia Press.

Grain Bins.
In most cases feed chests with compartments for different kinds of grain are necessary conveniences in both the barn and stable, but often the construction of such a bin is a matter of considerable expense and labor if the ordinary course is adhered to. With a view to assisting farmers whose bank accounts do not permit extravagances a New York correspondent of *Ohio Farmer* suggests the plan which is here depicted:

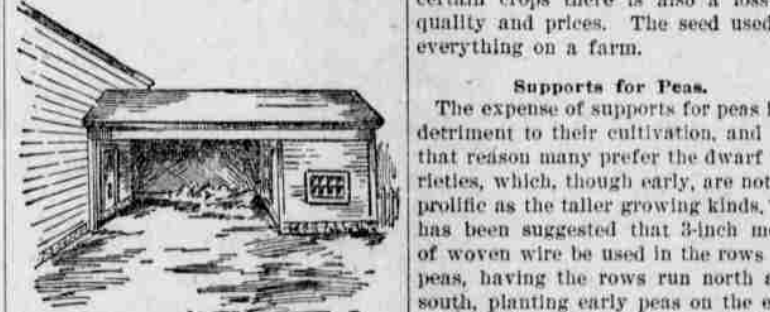


CHEAP GRAIN BINS.

First obtain the requisite number of dry goods or grocery boxes, all of the same dimensions. Place these boxes side by side, then nail together with wire nails long enough to reach through and clinch. Next attach a cover to the top of the bin thus made, and your work is done. Of course each box should be of size sufficient to hold all the grain of any one kind that must be kept on hand, but this need not occasion any alarm, for boxes of every size and shape mentionable can be procured at grocery and dry goods stores for a merely nominal sum.

How to Grow Asparagus.
A row of asparagus 100 feet long will afford an abundant supply for an ordinary family. The best way to make a bed is to dig a trench 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide. Fill in with 10 inches of clean horse manure, and on this sow a mixture of 25 pounds of bone dust and 40 pounds of sulphate of potash. Cover with six inches of rich dirt, and then place on this dirt two-year-old roots, placing the roots two feet apart, as they will thicken in rows in years to come. Cover the roots with two or three inches of dirt, and after the plants are well up and grown above the surface fill the trench with equal parts of well-rotted manure and rich earth. The object of using so much manure is that it will be difficult to apply it deep after the bed is established. Common salt may be used on the surface every year. Mound the rows every year, so that the plants will not be grown on a level, but in a long hill. Soapstuds are especially beneficial to asparagus and celery, and when putting in the manure and earth suds should be used freely. Make a drain by the side of the row and let all suds flow down the drain.

Barn Shed.
The cut shows an addition to the side of a barn covering a side door and affording a house for poultry and an open shed for the poultry to scratch in during the winter. It affords a chance also for cows to find protection during showers on summer nights when they are confined in the stable yard. If the horse stalls are adjacent to the side



BARN SHED AND POULTRY-HOUSE.

door, the horse manure can be thrown out into this open shed for the hens to scratch over, a little grain being thrown into it. The barnyard fence can be made fowl-tight as well as cow-tight, thus obviating the necessity for a separate poultry yard.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Heat for Hot Houses.
The old-fashioned coal furnace with flue is now out of date for cheap and safe production of heat for hot-houses. It is almost always used by beginners, because its first cost is less. But the coal fire is not always reliable, and the heat can not be regulated as to preserve an even temperature. Sooner or later pipes with hot water will be used, and in this way the hot-house can be saved from either extreme. Too many forget that in growing vegetables in winter under glass an excess of heat may prove as serious an evil as a frost, as it is harder to recover from.—American Cultivator.

Merits of Cotton-Seed Meal.
After extolling the merits of cotton-seed meal for years, leading agriculturists are taking the stand that it is an unsafe food, as it varies greatly according to the conditions of the growth of the plant and the treatment of the seed after it is removed from the bolls. Cotton-seed meal is the product of ground seed that has been subjected to pres-

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